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MEMORANDUM

REFERRING TO

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS, REVIEWS

AND

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES

OF THE

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE.

WASHINGTON:
SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE.
1870.

MEMORANDUM

REFERRING TO

Extracts from Letters, Reviews, and Bibliographical Notices

OF THE

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Since the close of the war, the Surgeon General has printed, by authority of the Secretary of War, the following works:

Circular No. 6. War Department, Surgeon General's Office, Washington, November 1, 1865. Reports on the Extent and Nature of the Materials Available for the Preparation of the Medical and Surgical History of the Rebellion. Quarto. pp. 166.

Catalogue of the United States Army Medical Museum. Prepared under the direction of the Surgeon General, U. S. Army. Washington, 1866. Quarto. pp. 960.

Circular No. 5. War Department, Surgeon General's Office, Washington, May 4, 1867. Report on Epidemic Cholera in the Army of the United States, during the year 1866. Quarto. pp. 65.

Circular No. 7. War Department, Surgeon General's Office, Washington, July 1, 1867. A Report on Amputations at the Hip-Joint in Military Surgery. Quarto. pp. 87.

Circular No. 1. War Department, Surgeon General's Office, Washington, June 10, 1868. Report on Epidemic Cholera and Yellow Fever in the Army of the United States during the year 1867. Quarto. pp. 156.

Circular No. 2. War Department, Surgeon General's Office, Washington, January 2, 1869. A Report on Excisions of the Head of the Femur for Gunshot Injury. Quarto. pp. 141.

Copies of these publications have been distributed to medical officers of the army and navy, to a large number of the volunteer surgeons who served during the war, and to many colleges and learned societies. They

have been adjudged at home and abroad to contain real and valuable additions to human knowledge on the special subjects on which they treat, and the demand for them has been so great that the large editions printed proved insufficient, and it was necessary to refuse copies to many applicants, who from their services in the medical staff during the war, were regarded as, in a measure, entitled to them.

Extracts from a few of the many letters from eminent men and learned societies, at home and abroad, and from the reviews of the leading medical periodicals will indicate how even the concise preliminary reports have been appreciated:

[TRANSLATION.]

STRASBOURG, March 29th, 1865.

MONSIEUR THE SURGEON GENERAL:

Please to accept my warmest thanks for the fine work you have done me the honor to send me entitled "Circular No. 6, Surgeon General's Office, November 1st, 1865."

American surgery has proved itself equal to cope with all the exigencies of a war of incomparable magnitude, undertaken for the defence of the laws, of liberty, and of the progress of humanity.

Surgeons everywhere are proud of the marvels which you have accomplished, in science and in self-devotedness, and your conduct will remain a model for imitation among the many other lofty examples which have excited our admiration and increased our sympathy for your national character, your patriotism, and your noble destiny.

Accept, Monsieur the Surgeon General, the assurance of my highest consideration.

C. SÉDILLOT.

Medical Inspector of the Army.

Director of the Imperial School for the Medical Staff of the Army.

Surgeon General JOSEPH K. BARNES, U. S. A.

NETLEY, England, 2d April, 1866.

DEAR SIR:

* * * I hope that before this reaches you the grant of money necessary for the publication of the first volume of your Medical and Surgical History of the Rebellion will have been made by Congress. The materials at your disposal, as shown by the descriptive Circular, are indeed immense, and of the highest interest to our profession in all parts of the world, and moreover, from the systematic manner in which they have been registered and classified, must be well under control as regards reference and arrangement. The plan upon which you have determined to publish the history appears to me well conceived, and I do not see how it can be improved upon. * * *

I must again thank you for sending me the Photographs and Circular,
Begging you to believe me, most truly yours,

THOS. LONGMORE,

Deputy Medical Inspector General,
Professor of Military Surgery in the British Army
Medical School.

Surgeon General J. K. BARNES, U. S. A.

[TRANSLATION.]

PARIS, April 1st, 1866.

MONSIEUR THE SURGEON GENERAL:

I have received the kind letter which you have done me the honor to write me with the greater interest since it directly transmitted to me two copies of your important Circular No. 6. I shall send to claim them from the Embassy where they doubtless remain. But I have already become familiar with this remarkable work, which is already disseminated among our learned societies. Of the two copies which have not yet reached me, but which I shall undoubtedly receive, I reserve one for the Academy of Medicine and one for the Surgical Society according to your wishes.

I am at your service also in regard to any other works you desire to make known in France, especially such as shall relate chiefly to the Medical Staff of the Army. The complete history of the bloody American War as well as all its details will possess the highest interest.

You lead me to hope for the first volume in the course of the coming year. I would thank you for it in anticipation. I shall read this important work with the greater attention because, during the war or towards the close of the last campaigns, I had the honor of being consulted for the Government by one of the Ambassadors of the United States, Mr. W. DAYTON, upon sundry questions relative to military hygiene, field surgery, the transportation of wounded, and retiring pensions for mutilated men. This last question particularly brought me in relation with the delegates of a special committee who visited France with reference to this subject.

I would say, finally, Sir, that my venerable friend, Dr. VALENTINE MOTT, sent me at different times, quite to the close of his long career, Surgeons who had been his pupils, that I might put them in possession of such documents as were at my disposal, which is an additional motive that leads me to take an interest in the labors of the Medical Staff of the American Army.

With assurances of my fraternal regard.

BARON H. LARREY.

Surgeon General J. K. BARNES, U. S. A.

[TRANSLATION.]

PARIS, February 22d, 1866.

SIR:

I have the honor to advise you of the reception of the volume entitled, "Circular No. 6, Surgeon General's Office, Washington, November 1, 1865."

Governments as well as science may greatly profit by your important labors, inspired as they are by the largest experience of war which has ever been acquired.

Please to accept, Sir, the tribute of my thanks and of my high esteem.

MICHEL LÉVY,
Senior Medical Inspector of the French Army,
Director of the Imperial School of Val-de-Grace.

J. K. BARNES, Surgeon General.

[TRANSLATION.]

PARIS, April 9th, 1866.

MONSIEUR ET TRÈS HONORÉ CONFRÈRE:

I have received through the American Legation at Paris, the Circular from your Bureau which you have done me the honor to send me.

I have read with the liveliest interest the surgical and scientific portion of this document, which furnishes material on many points at issue among professional men, and it is with a feeling of surprise and admiration that I have read all that which relates to the organization and working of the Medical Staff in the Field.

Without experience in the organization and construction of military hospitals, you have taken common sense and logic for your guide, and from the outset, the practical spirit of your nation has appreciated the pressing demands of different situations, has realized them, and has deduced from them results which, as you say with just pride, have never been attained by any people at any period.

Several weeks ago Medical Inspector General LEVY and myself were directed by our Government to make a report upon your Circular No. 6. I need not tell you that we bestowed on it the eulogies it deserves.

I should be happy my dear and honored confrère, if you would send me the Circulars that may have preceded or which shall follow Circular No. 6, it being my intention to review this magnificent work in one of our Parisian medical journals.

Please to accept, Monsieur my honored confrère, the tribute of my high consideration.

L. LEGOUEST,
Staff Surgeon of the 1st Class, and Professor of Clinical Surgery
at the Imperial School of Military Medicine and
Surgery of Val-de-Grace, at Paris.

J. K. BARNES, Surgeon General at Washington.

[TRANSLATION.]

PARIS, February 15th, 1866.
Rue de Lille, 91.

MONSIEUR THE SURGEON GENERAL:

The parcel which you have done me the honor to transmit to me containing the publication entitled, Circular No. 6, War Department, has for me the highest interest as regarding the working of the Medical Staff in the Field.

I should have the most earnest desire to see other publications of the same character or other numbers of the circular if I did not fear to trespass on your indulgence in asking you to send them.

Please to accept, Monsieur my honored confrère, the tribute of my high consideration.

BARON HIPPOLYTE LARREY,
Medical Inspector of the French Army.

P. S. If you desire to send copies of the Circular to the Academy of Medicine and the Surgical Society you are at liberty to command my services with those learned bodies, over which I have had the honor to preside.

Surgeon General J. K. BARNES, U. S. A.

HAMBURG, 8th September, 1866.

SIR:

Being absent from Berlin for some time, I beg to send you from here my warmest thanks for the pleasure which you have afforded me by the remittance of the splendid and instructive work (Circular No. 6). It enriches medical science, particularly in the direction of surgery and military medicine. The vast experience and the important results recorded will no doubt be for Europe a source of information and essential improvements.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
M. H. ROMBERG, M. D.,
Professor of Medicine in the University of Berlin.

Surgeon General J. K. BARNES.

MARSEILLES, France, April 29th, 1866.

SIR:

I am extremely flattered by your kindness in causing a copy of the Circular from your Office to be addressed to me, and I have to-day the honor to advise you of its reception, and to beg you to accept my sincere expressions of thanks.

I have reason to hope that BARON LARREY will review this interesting treatise in our Official Journal of Military Medicine and Surgery; but I propose myself to prepare a bibliographical notice of it for insertion in

M. Bozier's "Army Surgeon's Review," in order to draw the attention of all the members of the Medical Staff to the documents inducted in this work, which have such an important bearing upon the progress of our Art and upon the improvement of our organization.

I have the honor to remain, Monsieur the Surgeon General, with profound respect, your devoted servant and colleague,

A. DIDIOT,
Surgeon of the 1st Class,
in charge of the Military Hospital.

Surgeon General, U. S. A.

Imperial Surgical Society of Paris,
Paris, April 26th, 1866.

Monsieur et très honoré confrère:

I hasten to thank you in the name of my colleagues of the Surgical Society for the magnificent work which has been delivered to us, in your behalf, by Dr. Larrey. Our excellent colleague explained what interesting documents were included in this memoir, and concisely enumerated the most important points contained in its two sections, and his analysis was listened to with the greatest attention.

I am happy, Sir, my much esteemed confrère, to be the interpreter of the sentiments of the Surgical Society towards you.

Accept, I beg you, the assurance of my distinguished consideration

The General Secretary,
MARJOLIN.

Dr. J. K. Barnes,
Surgeon General of the Army of the United States.

Berlin, March 3d, 1866.

My sincerest thanks are due to the Surgeon General, U. S. A., for the transmission of the Reports on the Medical and Surgical History of the Rebellion, which are of the highest scientific value, and the results of which I will not fail to make known in German surgical literature.

Dr. E. GURLT,
Professor of Surgery in the University of Berlin,
Editor of Von Langenbeck's Archiv für Klinische Chirurgie.

Surgeon General Barnes, U. S. A.

Smithsonian Institute,
Washington, January 10, 1866.

Dear Sir:

I have examined with much interest and instruction the copy of the Report relative to the materials available for the preparation of a Medical and Surgical History of the Rebellion. This Report of itself is a valuable

addition to science, and I doubt not will call forth, from every part of the civilized world, an expression of ardent desire to see published a full discussion of all the materials which have been so industriously and systematically collected. Indeed our government owes it to the cause of humanity to give to the world whatever knowledge may have been gained during the sanguinary conflict, in which as a nation we have been engaged. Thousands of brave and patriotic men have periled their lives for the good of their country, and it would be an injustice to them as well as to the human race, if any results which have been derived from their sufferings should not be rendered available for the benefit of their posterity.

I have the honor to remain, with much respect,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH HENRY.

To General J. K. BARNES.

Surgeon General of the U. S. Army.

PHILADELPHIA, January 15, 1866.

SIR:

I beg leave to return you my very sincere thanks for your favor which I received this morning.

I had read in General Meade's copy, the War Department No 6 Circular, of the Surgeon General's Office; so that, before I had the honor to receive that which you sent to me, I had already been gratified with the perusal of a document so interesting as part of our national history and so honoring to the medical profession, in which I beg to act your most obliged and respectful colleague,

To Dr. BARNES, Surgeon General.

C. D. MEIGS, M. D.,

Emeritus Professor in Jefferson College.

Philadelphia, Pa.

It would be tedious to recapitulate all of the commendatory notices of the preliminary reports in *Circular* No. 6. Mr. PAGET, professor of surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, expressed his "admiration of the design and execution of the work." Professor PIRRIE, of the University of Aberdeen, wrote: "To me as a professor of surgery it is invaluable." M. JULES ROUX, professor of military surgery at the naval school at Toulon, returned thanks for this "production to which the medical world will certainly ascribe very great importance." The New York Medical Journal Association, at its meeting in June, 1866, on motion of Dr. DETMOLD, seconded by Dr. DELAFIELD, adopted unanimously the following resolutions:

"*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Association are due to Surgeon General J. K. BARNES for the copies of the interesting and valuable report (*Circular* No. 6), which have been forwarded to this Association.

"*Resolved*, That collectively and individually, this Association will use its influence for the purpose of urging the publication by Congress of the Medical History of the War, both as due from an enlightened and progressive Government to the self-sacrificing efforts of the Medical Staff during the late war, and as an invaluable addition to medical and scientific literature."

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania, October 14, 1866.

MY DEAR SIR:

Permit me to add to the acknowledgment enclosed, that I have perused with the greatest satisfaction your admirable illustration of materials for a History (Medical and Surgical) of the late war. I trust that you may in due time bring out the complete work, fraught with such vital interest to your profession, and to the cause of humanity throughout the world. No more important contribution could be made to the history of civilization and the progress of knowledge and humanity than this. It would, too, constitute the proudest monument that could be erected to the *real* heroes in our struggle for nationality, whose sacrifices and sufferings should be held in undying remembrance by a grateful people.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL P. BATES,
State Historian

To Surgeon General BARNES, U. S. A.

EXTRACT.

From the *London Medical Mirror*, June, 1866. Page 357.

* * * "This so-called Circular, but in reality goodly volume, is the American War Department Report on the medical and surgical experience gained in the colossal armies of the American Republic. * * * The 'Blue Books' of our British Army Medical Department are tardy in their appearance; and when at last they are forthcoming, we are not at all sure, that the most able documents have always been collected for the printer. A confused mass of figures and details of the dryest description, render our Medical Department Blue Books unpractical in the extreme. We would strongly recommend our army authorities to peruse the 'Grey' books of the United States War Department and learn how facts may be put together for the benefit of the practical and busy surgeons of the day, who have no time to pour over clustering figures, and ingenious but objectless statistics. Tables are not wanting in the 'Grey' book of the American Medical Department; but while tables are well attended to, other points of more vital importance have not been forgotten. In the American Circular, there are numerous beautiful engravings in connection with the summary on gunshot injuries to the various portions of the body. These add force to the lucidly detailed cases that accompany them. The

huge armies of the States and their great battles, cause the returns of our English and French Crimean War Hospitals, to dwindle into comparative insignificance. When it is stated that in comparing the number of cases of some important injury, as for example, gunshot fractures of the femur, it is found that in the French Crimean army, there was 459 such injuries, and in the English army 194, while over 5,000 such cases were reported to American headquarters, the magnitude and importance of the returns can be estimated. And again, the serious operation of excision of the head of the humerus, according to Crimean returns, was performed sixteen times in the British Army and thirty-eight times in the French Army, but the Registers of the United States Army Medical Department, record the enormous number of 575 such cases. In the frequent battles in the course of the civil war, and the great strain on the time and energies of the army medical officers, it was found difficult to secure in the official register of cases, the happy medium between an exacting prolixity, and a conciseness consistent with utility. By the judicious talent of a Board of army medical officers, this weighty point was carefully adjusted. * * * The more serious cases were set apart from the lesser, and not only were the newer description of returns ransacked in the search after accuracy, and in the interests of science and of students, but the older and more elaborate returns were waded through, and the present lucid, concise, and readable book, crowns the laborious investigation of the numerous experienced men to whom the herculean task was entrusted of sifting the bulky records of the great civil war. In a single page of Circular No. 6, a simple and effective classification, places before the student the astounding number of 87,822 wounds and injuries, and of 17,125 surgical operations. Everything of transcendent interest both in surgery and medicine has been touched upon in the handsome volume before us; but efficient and excellent as it is, it is but a key to the gigantic amount of information that is lying in the office of the Surgeon General of the United States Army; the materials for an exhaustive Medical and Surgical History of the great American War. A point not the least surprising in Circular No. 6 is the fact that this lucid abstract of the war came out in the year of its conclusion. Those who are accustomed to wait for years for our Blue Book in no extraordinary time, must be struck with the alertness, activity and business talent that is showed by our American Brethren of the service, and a feeling of shame for our own shortcomings must prevail. * * * And we recommend most heartily to the Directors of our medical services, the interesting Circular No. 6 with its beautiful plates, and its lucid facts, deductions and records of experience as a useful guide in the preparation of the English returns." * * *

The reports in this Circular were translated into the German, French and Italian language, and many extended extracts were made from them in foreign systematic works on medicine and surgery.

In 1856, the Catalogue of the Army Medical Museum was printed. The edition was so limited that it was only possible to supply copies to the medical officers of the army, the principal libraries and medical museums of this and other countries, and to such contributors to the Museum as had donated at least six specimens. It contains descriptions of 4,719 surgical, 817 medical, and 2,120 microscopical specimens. Its pages are constantly referred to by students of pathology, and the specimens described are often appealed to as the most reliable evidence in cases of medico-legal inquiry.

The work was pronounced by the Professor of Anatomy in Harvard College, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, "a monument of intelligent industry." Dr. Grimm, the Prussian Surgeon General, wrote that he "had studied it with the greatest interest." Attorney General Stanbery writes that an "examination of this splendid work satisfies me that it is a most valuable contribution to science." Dr. Gurdon Buck, of New York, than whom there is no more competent judge, expresses his "extreme satisfaction with the execution of the work." The famous English statistician, Dr. Farr, pronounced it "a contribution to science in the highest degree creditable to the War Department." Dr. Maddox, of England, believed it "unrivalled in general and artistic excellence." The council of St. George's Hospital, London, state that the work is "studied with very great interest by those who visit our library." The Secretary of the Institute of France, M. Elie de Beaumont, conveys an assurance of the "great importance" attached to the work by that first of learned bodies. The *Gazette Médicale de Paris* endeavors to give its readers "an idea of the great treasures of this Museum, the collections of which reflect the highest honor on its directors." The Director General of the British Army Medical Department, Sir Thomas J. Logan, offers his thanks "for the personal gift of a work so replete in interest of the highest professional value." Similar marks of the appreciation of this volume were shown by numerous learned societies and by the representatives of foreign governments.

In the following year, two circulars were issued: Circular 5, on *Epidemic Cholera in the Army*, was published in May, and Circular 7, on *Amputations at the Hip*, in July, 1867. Circular No. 5 gives an account of the epidemic of cholera which prevailed in the army in 1865, and includes extracts from the reports of the medical officers at the posts to which the epidemic extended, statistical tables, and a summary of the deductions made from these facts. Nearly three thousand cases were reported, and over twelve hundred of these were fatal. From numerous notices and reviews of this Circular, the following are selected:

PRUSSIAN LEGATION,
Washington, December 14, 1867.

SIR:

I take great pleasure in informing you that the Royal government has directed me to express to you the gratitude of his Majesty, my gracious King, in behalf of your most interesting report on the cause of the cholera epidemic last year among the United States troops. I am also particularly instructed to state that the said report met with the highest appreciation in the military circles of Prussia.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
The Prussian Minister,

BARON VON GEROLT.

To the Assistant Surgeon General, U. S. A.

The *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* of August 15, 1867, speaks as follows: "This document is a valuable contribution to the current history of the recent epidemic, and adds much weight to the constantly accumulating evidence in favor of the theories of the portability and communicability of the disease and the great efficacy of hygienic measures and disinfecting agents in checking its indefinite extension." The *Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal* for August, 1867, remarks: "This report contains a great amount of information regarding the cholera in the army, at the many stations in which it appeared during the year. It is a valuable document for permanent reference." In the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* for January, 1868, we find: "This circular, like all the others which have been issued from the Surgeon General's Office, contains a great amount of important and instructive information carefully collected and skilfully arranged." The *New York Medical Record* for August 15, 1867, has the following: "A very able document, made up from official reports, with statistical tables exhibiting the monthly number of cases and deaths from cholera and the allied bowel affections, for each post where the disease prevailed: and although the total number of cases is not very great, yet they bear a large proportion to the number of troops exposed to the disease; and the circumstances attending the transmission of the epidemic from post to post are so interesting, and so clearly demonstrative of the infectious nature of the disease, that it may be regarded as one of the most important documents on the subject yet published in our country." The *London Lancet* for January, 1867, in speaking of this circular, states that: "It is not possible to do more than indicate here the principal lines and manner of dissemination of the epidemic in the United States, so far as the troops were concerned, and to direct the attention of the epidemiologist to this instructive and suggestive report."

Circular No. 7 presented a report on Amputations at the Hip, containing abstracts of a larger number of cases of this operation than had heretofore been recorded in military surgery, and practical deductions, derived from the analysis of this large number of cases, of the conditions under which the formidable surgical resource is justifiable or requisite. Dr. STEPHEN SMITH, of New York, the author of an authoritative statistical paper on this subject, remarks of this report, that: "it must long, and perhaps forever remain the greatest storehouse of facts relating to amputations at the hip-joint on record. Professor HENRY SMITH, of the University of Pennsylvania, says "it must prove of the deepest interest to the profession, both in the United States and Europe, and add to the wide spread reputation of the department." Dr. E. M. HUNT, President of the New Jersey State Medical Society, regarded the report as "a model of the method in which every important operation of surgery, and, in fact, every disease, should be studied up and canvassed." The report was favorably noticed in most of the medical periodicals. It was presented by Baron LARREY, to the French Institute, to the Academy of Medicine, and to the Imperial Surgical Society, in eulogistic terms, and with extended remarks, in which the principal contents of the report were analyzed. It was acknowledged with expressions of the highest approbation by Surgeon General HEIBERG, of Norway; Director General GRIMM, of Prussia; Inspector General MERCHIE, of Belgium; Surgeon General LEHMAN, of Switzerland; Baron HALROWITZ, chief surgeon of the Russian Marine; Professor GHERINI, of Milan; Surgeon NEUDORFER, of Austria, and Director General LOGAN, of Great Britain. Large extracts from it were transcribed into various European languages, the costliness of the plates forbidding its complete reproduction. The *London Lancet*, (Jan. 1868) approved "the continuation of the series of admirable surgical and medical reports issued by the United States Government," and regarded this Circular as "a very creditable production, and worthy of the Government, and the surgical staff of its War Department."

In 1868, *Circular* No. 1 was issued, giving an account of the cholera and yellow fever epidemics of the previous year, on the same general plan as pursued in Circular No. 5. Owing, it is believed, in a large measure, to the precautions taken in consequence of the experience of the preceding year, recorded in Circular No 5, the total number of deaths from cholera was but two-hundred and thirty. Of yellow fever there were over sixteen hundred cases and four hundred and fifty deaths among the troops. This report was received with great favor, especially by epidemiological societies, and public officials having to deal with subjects connected with quarantine and public hygiene.

The *London Lancet* for November, 1868, says: "The data upon which the inferences and statements of the report are founded do not admit of being given with brevity. They must be consulted in detail in order to

form a just appreciation of the importance of the report now before us, and that of 1866 (*Circular* No. 5) as contributions to our knowledge of the etiology of cholera and yellow fever." From the *Gazette Hebdomadaire de Medecine et de Chirurgie*, of Paris, for November, 1868, we translate the following: "It contains the chief reports of the American Military Surgeons on the history of the two epidemics of 1867; the figures are arranged in convenient tables: in fact it is a *resume* of actual observations and just conclusions. The medical organization of the American Army permits and facilitates all inquiries which have for their object the progress of science, and each epidemic manifestation has been studied and related with the most minute care." * *

ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL,
Netley, England, November, 14, 1868.

SIR:

I have to apologize for not having sooner acknowledged the courtesy of the Surgeon General in sending to me the very interesting and instructive reports (No. 6 of 1865; No. 7, of 1867; and No. 1, of 1868). I have read them with care and great interest, especially the Circular on Cholera, and that part of No. 6, of 1865, containing the microscopical series of your museum. I hope the Surgeon General will allow me to congratulate him on the publication of these splendid reports, which reflect the greatest credit on him and on the Department.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
E. F. PARKES, M. D., F. R. S.
Professor of Military Hygiene at the Army Medical School.

To the Assistant Surgeon General, U. S. A.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Gibralter, August 20, 1868.

SIR:

May I beg of you to convey my very best thanks, and those of the British Medical Officers serving in this fortress, to the Surgeon General, United States Army, for "one copy of Circular No. 1, of 1868, and No. 5, of 1867," received this morning; publications which, like their predecessors, reflect so much credit upon the professional character and intelligence of the medical officers of the United States Army.

With my many thanks for your kind attention, allow me to subscribe myself.

Your very obedient servant,
W. RUTHERFORD, M. D.,
Deputy Inspector General.

To the Assistant Surgeon General, U. S. Army.

The *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* of August 27, 1868, has the following: "Circular No 1, containing a report on epidemic cholera and yellow fever, offers much that is instructive as to the mode of propagation of the former of these diseases," and the *New York Medical Record* of August 1, 1868, says that: "These are very valuble documents, as they abound in well substantiated, carefully observed facts."

In 1869, *Circular* No. 2, was published, on Excisions at the Hip. This is a monograph on the treatment of gunshot fractures of the upper part of the thigh bone. The facts adduced, are a little more than six times as numerous as those previously recorded. In conformity with the deductions made in this report, three excisions at the hip for gunshot injury of the head of the femur have been practiced in the United States Army since the close of the war, and in two of the three cases, the patients have not only recovered, but have preserved comparatively useful limbs, from injuries which a score of years ago were believed to be uniformly fatal. In the Prussian army also, at least one successful operation of this sort has been performed, and a photograph of the patient sent to Surgeon General BARNES, by Director General GRIMM, indicates that a useful limb was left. This report was analyzed, with expressions of approbation by the leading American and European journals, and its conclusions were adopted by such eminent military surgeons as Professor LOMMEYER, Dr. ESMARCH, Professor GURLT, Dr. VON LANGENBECK, and Professor VON PITHA. Sir WILLIAM FERGUSSON, Serjeant Surgeon to the Queen of Great Britain, in the fifth edition of his standard work on Surgery, published in 1870, remarks, that: "Modern surgery certainly owes much to our American brethren, and in few respects more than in regard to this grand topic [of excision of joints] I have the greatest satisfaction in referring to. 'A Report on Excisions of the Head of the Femur for Gunshot Injury, 1869.' Here the most comprehensive history of the whole subject yet published has been put together. It redounds to the credit of surgery, yet for the sake of humanity, it may be hoped that such a mass of experience within a brief period, may never again fall to the lot of a single generation. I perceive that in this Report the name of my former friend, Sir GEORGE BALLINGALL, is used among others as a worthy authority; but I little thought, some forty years ago, as I demonstrated to that gentleman the easy practicability of excising the head of the femur on the dead subject, that I should be the modern pioneer (in this country) of resuscitation of the proceeding in civil practice, and so, as I hope, have given encouragement to that 'Conservatism' which has been so signally displayed in the practice of American surgeons in the United States Army, and also among their gallant contemporaries in the Confederate service." Dr. R. M.

Hodgen, himself a distinguished writer on excisions, observes, in a review published in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, that "of the circulars published by the Surgeon General's Office, this conveys to the reader more than any of its predecessors, a vivid idea of the valuable statistical material accumulated in the surgical archives of the government," and adds that "nothing hitherto published approaches in value, or equals in interest, this contribution to the literature of excisions." A reviewer in the *American Medical Record* declared that "it would be difficult to overestimate the amount of labor and painstaking research required to compile this report. The Surgeon General's Department," he continues, "deserves well of the country and of the profession. It is the duty of every man in the profession to give it his hearty support, and to make the extent and value of its labors known to those who exert influence and exercise power. There should be no lack of means to bring these works to complete perfection. In this way, the Republic can show it is not ungrateful to the people who sacrificed homes, property, limbs and life, and the profession which stood faithfully by her in the hour of trial. Such works are an encouragement to the profession of medicine, a rebuke to ignorance, quackery, and sham, in all their varied and pretentious forms. They are solid stones in the arch which supports government, humanity, science, and civil society; an everlasting monument of national greatness, and legacies to posterity, more instructive, valuable, eloquent, and permanent than bronze or marble, obelisk, pyramid or mausoleum." Dr. Hewit, the senior surgeon of the volunteer staff, pronounced, in a review in the *Catholic World*, this report to be "a model of patient labor, exact knowledge, just discrimination, and acutely intelligent appreciation. * * Such works belong to the class of benefits whose value cannot be expressed by human standards. They reflect honor upon the age and country which produce them, and are an invaluable legacy to the future," and closes with "expressing the hope that Congress, influenced by the universal sentiment of the country, will give all the material aid required to the Surgeon General's Department in prosecuting its great and most faithful labors." Dr. T. Longmore, the professor of military surgery at the British Army Medical School at Netley, in a review of this report in the *British Medical Journal*, says: "Like the preceding one, on hip-joint amputations, it is quite a pattern of typography, and the wood-cuts with which it is illustrated are admirably executed. The contrast between the 'Circulars' and our 'Blue-books' is sadly against the latter. It is pleasing to find that the liberality of the government has been turned to so good an account by the Surgeon General, and by the reporter under his direction, on whom has devolved the task of collecting, arranging and estimating the intrinsic value of the immense mass of surgical materials which the prolonged war in the United States unhappily furnished. No more painstaking or accurate reporter could have been found for the task." A reviewer in the *Nation* pronounced this report "a marvel of research,"

and adds that "when the history of the medical service in the war of the rebellion is finished, it will establish one fact that deserves to be better known than it now is—that the business of life-saving was then done more thoroughly and successfully than ever before in a great war."

The utility of the collections of the Army Medical Museum to the causes of science and humanity, has been so forcibly impressed upon the heads of the Government, by Professor HENRY, Professor AGASSIZ, and other of the foremost scientists of the country, that it is superfluous to quote many notices of the appreciation in which it is held. The English, Russian, Prussian, Austrian, Belgian, Bavarian and Norwegian Governments have sent medical commissioners expressly to examine the collections, and many foreign physicians have made long journeys to study them, and letters are frequently received from European savans expressing their intention to visit the Museum. The following is one of the last of many such communications to the Surgeon General. It is from Dr. ESMARCH, a leading military-surgeon of North Germany: "I am impressed with the perseverance and energy which has called to life an institution so valuable to the whole surgical profession, and hope to have an opportunity to take a personal view of the same." Baron VON HAUROWITZ, chief surgeon of the Russian marine, in a report published at Leipzig in 1867, after an official tour of inspection of the medical institutions of this country, speaks of the Army Medical Museum as "the most valuable collection of the sort in existence."

It is only necessary to refer to the means that have been taken to disseminate a knowledge of the collections of the Museum by photographs and to a limited extent by plaster casts and models. Models of ambulances, hospitals, of improvements in surgical apparatus and artificial limbs were exhibited at the Paris exposition, and in some instances were furnished to foreign governments. Plaster casts have been sent to a number of the civil hospitals, and to surgeons engaged in investigating special subjects, particularly those connected with medico-legal inquiries. But photography has principally been relied upon to diffuse a knowledge of the more important specimens in the Museum. The application of photography to surgical illustrations has been styled abroad "an happy inspiration of American military surgeons;" but this phrase must be disclaimed, as photographs of surgical injuries and diseases were made long before the late war. It is true, however, that the collection of such photographs made during the war are invaluable to the student of military surgery. Such was the opinion expressed by Baron LARREY in presenting to the Imperial Academy of Medicine of France, the four volumes issued by the Surgeon General's Office, each containing fifty photographs, illustrating the principal varieties of wounds incurred in battle, or specimens of the repair of such injuries, and such has been the verdict of the professors of the leading medical schools to whom these volumes have been dis-

tributed. The remarks of Baron LARREY will be found in the *Bulletin de l' Academie Imperiale de Medecine*; Tome XXXV. pp. 274. Mars 29, 1870; M. LEGOUEST, of the French Army Medical School at Val-de-Grace, Professor LONGMORE, of the British Army Medical School at Netley, the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, and the surgical professors of many other institutions abroad and at home, have also expressed their appreciation of the value of these illustrations. Inspector General MERCHIE, of Brussels, writes that he considers "this application of photography to surgery appears to be a very happy innovation, likely to be imitated with great advantage in the future,—a progressive step which does the greatest honor to the medical staff of the United States Army." In *L'Avenir Nationale*, Professor POUCHET remarks that "photography played a great part in the beginning of the war. The Army Medical Museum possesses over four thousand prints representing wounds, mutilations, and particularly the important results obtained by conservative surgery. The latter especially were largely copied, and prints with descriptive notices in letter press were immediately sent to the field surgeons of the army. The happy results of triumphs of surgery thus made the common property as it were, each one knowing them, being inspired to attempt to repeat them. How many unfortunates are indebted to this wise measure for the preservation of limbs that would otherwise have fallen pitilessly under the knife." In the work, published in 1867, by Dr. J. MASON WARREN, an eminent Surgeon of Boston, entitled *Surgical Observations*, the chapter on gunshot wounds, commences as follows: "Since the late war, gunshot wounds, and other wounds produced by warlike weapons, have received an increased interest, and are now being extensively illustrated by the elaborate works published by Surgeon General BARNES, under the direction of the American Government. Some of the beautiful photographic illustrations of important surgical cases and operations, * * * which surpass in the art any thing of the kind which has thus far been accomplished, have already appeared. Circular No. 6,—being the preliminary surgical report * * * —is of especial value. The same may be said of the medical report * * * . The battle-field lists of wounded, for the years 1864–5, include over 114,000 names." Professor HENRY H. SMITH, of the University of Pennsylvania, writes, that he presented the volumes containing these photographs, on the day following their reception, to the surgical class of the University "with permission to them individually to examine them at their leisure in the surgical museum, calling their attention to the valuable sources of information as highly creditable, artistically, to the Government." The Jefferson Medical College, the Universities of New York, Michigan, Maryland, and many others, expressed in similar terms their appreciation of the value of these photographs for purposes of class demonstration.

The work done in the Microscopic Section of the Museum in the direction of Photo-micrography, as made known by the publications of the

Office, and by the exchange of photo-micrographs with working microscopists, has met with much appreciation, as may be seen by reference to the recent text books on the subject. For example: Dr. LIONEL S. BEALE, of London, in the fourth edition of his *How to Work with the Microscope*, published in 1868, speaks of this work as constituting "the most remarkable advance" in the art which has been made since the publication of the third edition of his work in 1864, and gives in extenso the methods pursued at the museum, as derived from the various publications of the Surgeon General's Office (see pp. 229 to 241, and 341 to 346 of his book). On page 231, after making an extended extract, he remarks "Such an extract is enough to show the activity and usefulness of the department by which it is issued, and is in the highest degree creditable to those who performed the work, and to the Government which sanctions and encouraged its prosecution." JULES GIRARD, in his monograph, *La Chambre Noire et le Microscope*, Paris, 1869, in giving the history of photo-microscopy, states, page 8, "That it is at the Army Medical Museum that the art has been carried to the highest point attained in the New World, and that every opportunity has been afforded by the institution to favor the success of the 'remarkable experiments' of the officer charged with that work." On pages 16 and 34, the methods employed at the Museum for obtaining photographs of microscopic objects are quoted in terms of approbation, and on page 84, *et seq.*, the photographs of Nobert's plate and of P. Angulatum made at the Museum, are mentioned as among "the most remarkable resolutions of test objects which have been attained by Photography." Complimentary allusions are also made by Dr. BERTHOLD BENEKE, of Konigsberg, Prussia, in his work, *Die Photographie als Hilfsmittel Mikroskopische Forschung*, Braunschweig, 1868, who gives the method employed at the Museum, in detail, on page 187, and other parts of his work. From *L' Avenir Nationale*, Paris, May 14, 1867, the following notice by GEORGES POUCHET is extracted: "Even microscopical anatomy, so much neglected in America, flourishes there now under the auspices of the War Department; several thousand microscopic preparations have been made, and, which is of more consequence, many of them have been photographed. It has been necessary to invent everything, even the instruments, yet already in this entirely new art America has again excelled us."

During the present year the officer in charge of the Microscopic Section of the Museum has made several special reports to the Surgeon General on microscopical subjects, viz:

1. *Report to the Surgeon General of the United States Army on the Magnesium and Electric Lights, as applied to Photo-micrography.* January 5, 1870.

2. *Report to the Surgeon General of the United States Army on the Oxy-Calcium Light, as applied to Photo-micrography.* June 4, 1870.

3. *Report to the Surgeon General of the United States Army on certain points connected with the Histology of minute bloodvessels.* July 6, 1870.

Of these reports but a few hundred copies were printed, the edition being limited by the cost of the photo-micrographs, by which they were illustrated; they have, however, been made accessible by republication in several widely-circulated journals. The first two of the foregoing reports, referring to the use of artificial lights in photo-micrography, have been reprinted in extenso by the *London Monthly Microscopical Journal*, the *British Journal of Photography*, the *London Photographic News*, the *American Journal of Arts and Sciences*, and the *Journal of the Franklin Institute*. The report on the bloodvessels has been reprinted in extenso by the *London Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science*, the *London Monthly Microscopical Journal*, the *New York Medical Record*, and the *National Medical Journal*. Of one of the reports Dr. LIONEL S. BEALE remarks "I believe it would be most difficult, if not actually impossible, for our Government at this time to issue a report of the character of that from which the extract is taken, supposing that the actual work had been done by private persons and placed at the disposal of the State. The paper of our own 'Blue Book' is too coarse, and the printing too rough for scientific memoirs. Let the reader, for instance, compare the plates accompanying my report on the Cattle Plague, which were printed by Government, with those in the present work. The contrast between the text of Government and private works is still more striking."

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